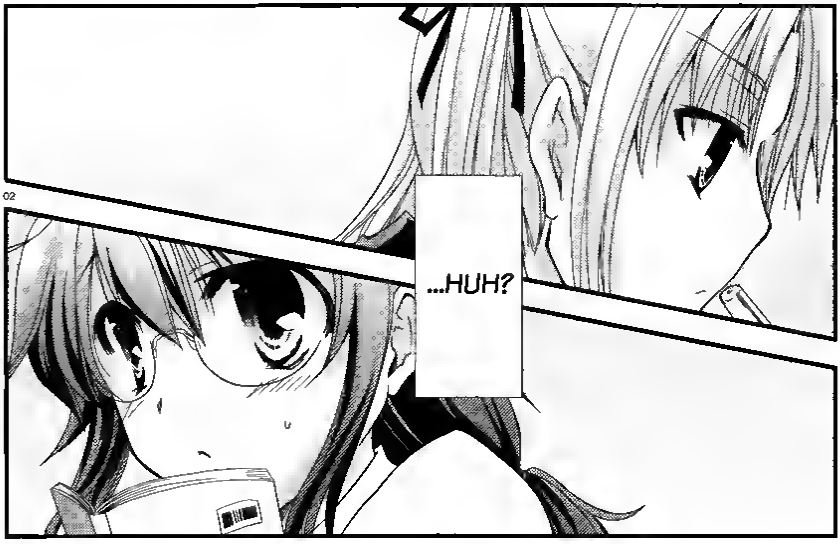
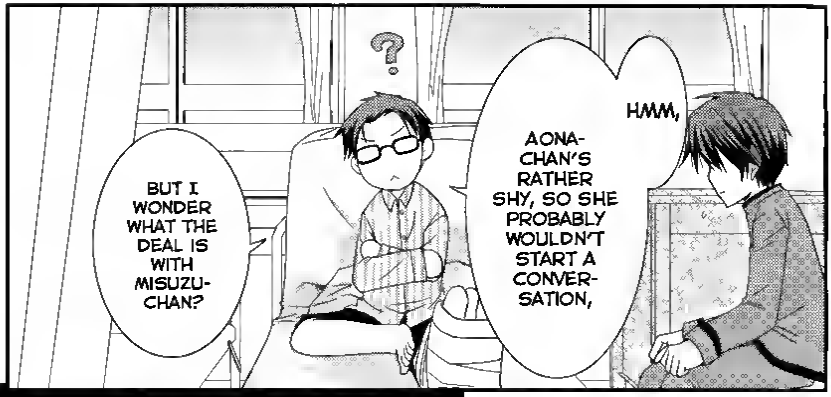
山木鈴
Rin Yamaki
原作 弓弦イズル
Izuru Yumizuru
LAST SATURDAY, I ONLY INTENDED TO INTRODUCE THEM TO EACH OTHER OVER LUNCH, BUT IN THE END, THEY MADE ME GO SHOPPING WITH THEM FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.
WITH FLOWERS IN HAND... WAIT NO, IT'S SHOPPING.
BUT FOR THAT EXTRA WORK, THE TWO AUTHORS SEEMED TO HAVE GOTTEN EVEN CLOSER.
ふつくらたけーる
CHAPTER 4: "A DOWNPOUR TO MOISTEN THE SOFT, FAIR SKIN"
ぷのべのへん!

MONDAY


...HUH?

TOKITOU-SAN, GOOD MORNING.
FWAH!?
EH... UM... GOOD... MOR-NING!
はっ
LET'S JUST SAY HI FOR NOW.
MOR-NING.
YA.
.....
OH, I READ UP TO VOLUME 6 OF RED RABBIT ALREADY.
AH, RIGHT.

THE COVER WAS KIND OF SPARKLY.
BECAUSE IT'S THE LAST VOLUME...
?
...IS WHAT THEY'RE LIKE, AND THEY AREN'T TALKING TO EACH OTHER.
中央病院


HMM,
AONA-CHAN'S RATHER SHY, SO SHE PROBABLY WOULDN'T START A CONVER-SATION,
?
BUT I WONDER WHAT THE DEAL IS WITH MISUZU-CHAN?

THEY BOTH APPROVE OF EACH OTHER'S WORK.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH AONA-CHAN MAY DISLIKE TALKING,
SHE'LL FIND HER OWN WAY TO DISCUSS THE STORY WITH MISUZU-CHAN!

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE A GOOD BOOK AT THIS RATE, WILL WE?
MAYBE IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER FOR THEM NOT TO MEET...

THAT'S NOT TRUE!

As a fellow novelist, I seriously doubt Misuzu-chan would just let that slide!
IT'D BE GREAT IF THAT WERE TRUE.
UMM... HM?
WELL, IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S ENJOYING HERSELF, SO I'LL JUST LEAVE HER BE...
WHAT'S SHE DOING ...?
キーン コーン
カーン コーン
TUESDAY

Let's have lunch together! My treat!
Fujimaki-san!
Tokitou-san!
……
!?
WHY ME?
HEY SUGA! YOU'RE PICKING UP THE TAB? THANK YOU!
THANKS, MAN.
...EH... AH... UM... SO... SORRY!
AH SORRY, I'M GOING TO EAT WITH MURAI-SAN.

NGH ...!
AT THIS STAGE, NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT MY COVER BEING BLOWN!
WEDNESDAY
TOKITOU-SAN, MORNING-
"SHIRO TSUMEKUSA TO OUGON NO TSUKI" IS IN DANGER! I NEED TO DO SOMETHING!
THURSDAY
FUJIMAKI, TOKITOU-SAN, AFTER SCHOOL..
FUJIMAKI-SA...
I CAN'T.
I TOLD YOU I CAN'T!!
FRIDAY
DAMN ...
08
I CAN DO IT TO-FAY
I CAN DO IT. I CAN DO IT. I CAN DO IT
BUT, THERE ISN'T MUCH FOR THEM TO TALK TO EACH OTHER ABOUT...
IT'S ALREADY FRIDAY, HUH?
IF THINGS STILL DON'T GO WELL TODAY, SHOULD I ASK THEM OUT OVER THE WEEKEND AGAIN...?

びくんっ
WAH!
TOKITOU-SAN, MORNING!
G...
ドキ
GOOD.... MORN-ING...
ドキ
WA-
WA-
WA WA!
わたわた
I SCARED YOU, DIDN'T I?
SO... SORRY,
YEAH, NICE JOB.
ほっ

AH... UM, I'M SORRY, YOU GREET ME EVERY MORNING, YET I...
I CAN'T SEEM TO TALK WITHOUT THIS GUY...
AHAHA, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT WAS JUST MY BAD TIMING.
YOU HAVE THAT CROCODILE WITH YOU IN CLASS TOO, DON'T YOU?
10
YE... YEAH ...
BEFORE, EVEN WHEN THE TEACHER CALLED ON ME, I COULDN'T ANSWER ANY-THING...
BUT RECENTLY, THANKS TO THIS LITTLE GUY, CLASSES ARE BECOMING FUN.
I... I see!
SHE SEEMS REALLY HAPPY. I GUESS THE 2,000 YEN WAS WORTH IT.

WAAAH-!
11
AH, THE GUYS ARE PLAYING BASKET-BALL.
AS EXPECTED, HE'S PLAYING THE BIGGEST ROLE.
EH? BUT HE'S IN THE "HOMECOM-ING" CLUB, RIGHT?

YEAH. IT SEEMS HE INJURED HIMSELF AND QUIT, BUT I HEARD HE WAS QUITE GOOD BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH.
EHH!?
LIKE MICCHI !?
EH? MICCHI? WHO'S THAT?
MICCHI'S THE NICKNAME FOR MITSUI HISAHIKO IN "SLAM DUNQ". HE WAS THE MVP IN JUNIOR HIGH, BUT HE QUIT BASKETBALL DUE TO AN INJURY AND BECAME A DELINQUENT
WAIT NO... NOTHING!
BUT...
MICCHI, HUH...?
WHAT-? YOU INTERESTED IN HIM, MISUZU?
HE'S A LITTLE LOST, BUT SEEMS TO BE FAIRLY POPULAR.
HUH !?
NO, NO, NO! I WON'T EVER CONSIDER A CLASSMATE!
AH, I GET IT. YOU'RE ONE OF THE TYPES WHO PREFERS OLDER PEOPLE.
THEN, DO YOU WANT TO HOLD A MIXER FOR BUSINESSMEN NEXT TIME?
EH!?

IT... IT'S ALRIGHT.
ぽっ
BESIDES, I ALREADY HAVE SOME-ONE I THINK IS GOOD...
Ehh!? Who!?
IT.. IT'S STILL A SECRET!
THE GIRLS SURE ARE LOUD...
STAND.
BOW.
ALRIGHT, BYE GUYS~
ばっ

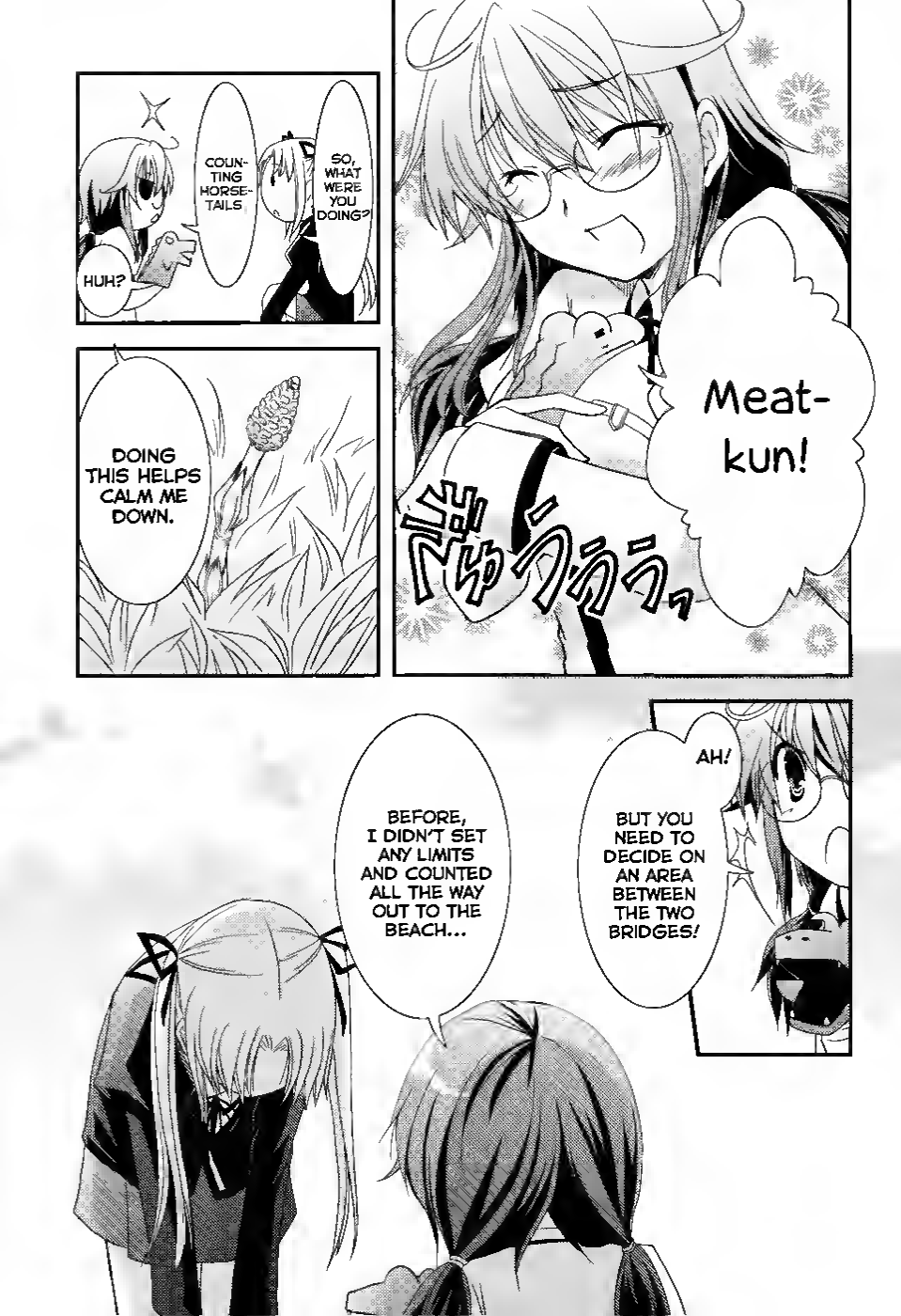
FUJI-MAKI-SAN!
UJI-
AKI
...
AH... UM...
I FINISHED READING THE RED RABBIT SERIES, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TRY IT...
EH...

I...
I DON'T WANT IT!
MI-SUZU-
AH ...
I ALSO FOUND SOME MANGA THE ILLU-STRATOR DREW, SO...
15
ぱっ
EH...
ふいっ
I'M GOING HOME NOW!

TOKI-TOU,
DID YOU BRING MANGA TO SCHOOL? I'LL HAVE TO CONFI-SCATE IT.
SO... SORRY ...
AH!
AND WHAT'S WITH THIS TOY?
THE OTHER TEACHERS WERE AT A LOSS BE-CAUSE YOU WERE EVEN TAKING IT OUT DURING CLASS.
I'M TAKING IT, TOO.

TOKI-
TOU-
SAN!

EH...
UGH
...
57
.....
HIYAHH!
...AH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HERE!
AU-
AUUU ...!
!


Meat-kun!
ぎゅうぅぅ
SO, WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
COUN-TING HORSE-TAILS
HUH?
DOING THIS HELPS CALM ME DOWN.
AH!
BUT YOU NEED TO DECIDE ON AN AREA BETWEEN THE TWO BRIDGES!
BEFORE, I DIDN'T SET ANY LIMITS AND COUNTED ALL THE WAY OUT TO THE BEACH...

SORRY!
THE MOMENT AFTER YOU LEFT, THAT SUGANO...
I'M SORRY FOR AVOIDING YOU ALL THIS TIME!
SENSEI, I BEG OF YOU!
IF ANYTHING, PLEASE RETURN THAT PUPPET!
...HE WAS DOWN ON HIS KNEES BEGGING.

HE ALSO SAID THAT BEFORE YOU HAD MEAT-KUN, YOU COULDN'T ANSWER ANYTHING IF YOU GOT PICKED ON IN CLASS, AND THAT YOU EVEN CRIED.
AH...
BUT THEN, HE SAID THAT MEAT-KUN HAD CHANGED YOU.
EVEN EARLIER, YOU MUSTERED UP ALL YOUR COURAGE TO TALK TO ME, RIGHT?
AND YET, I... SORRY.
IF I TALK TO YOU, IT'S ONLY ABOUT MANGA AND NOVELS, RIGHT?
I DON'T WANT MY CLASSMATES TO THINK I'M AN OTAKU.

AH! I... I'M SORRY.
IT'S OKAY.
I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SHIRO TSUMEKUSA TO OUGON NO TSUKI AND OTHER LIGHT NOVELS TOO, I WAS JUST FORC-ING MYSELF NOT TO.
AH... THEN LET'S TALK THROUGH E-MAIL OR WHEN WE'RE ALONE NEXT TIME.
OKAY, LET'S EXCHANGE E-MAILS!
YEAH!
...AH, OH YEAH, I NEED TO CALL SUGANO.
HE'S OUT LOOKING FOR YOU, TOO.

YEAH, WAIT FOR ME UNDER THE BRIDGE, I'LL BUY SOME UMBRELLAS.
OKAY, RIGHT. I'LL HEAD RIGHT OVER.
...YEAH.
OH REALLY?
...OH?
I WAS RIGHT TO GIVE FUJIMAKI THE PUPPET AND SEND HER OVER THERE.
AH, SHE REALLY WAS BY THE RIVERBANK, HUH?
藤巻みすず
CALLING
THEY TOLD ME THEY WERE UNDER THIS BRIDGE.
HUH?

SO, THIS IS WHERE YOU...
OH, WHAT ...
OHH ...?
OH...

THEN WHY THE HELL ARE YOU STRIPPING, YOU PERVY GIRLS!?
DIRTY PER-VERT!
DIE !!!
KYAAAHH!
25
P... PERVY GIRLS!?
YOU IDIOT! STANDING AROUND WITH YOUR BRA SHOWING THROUGH YOUR WET SHIRT IS MUCH MORE PERVY!
EH... REALLY ...?
RIGHT, MISUZU-CHAN?
UM, NAH...
RIGHT, AONA?
Y... YEAH, WE WERE THINKING OF TAKING IT OFF AND WRINGING IT OUT...
WE JUST DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO GET HERE SO QUICKLY
OH, THEY'RE REFERRING TO EACH OTHER BY NAME.

TOKI-TOU-SAN, I'LL LEND YOU MY JACKET.
TH... THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
OH, AND HERE.
PRESS HERE, AND THE MOUTH WILL MOVE AS THE LEAD COMES OUT.
Wow!
THERE WON'T BE ANY PROBLEM WITH YOU USING THAT IN CLASS, RIGHT?
Y... YEAH!
HMM... YOU FOUND SOMETHING NICE.
HERE, THIS IS YOURS.
EH?
IT'S FROM THE SAME SERIES.
YOU LIKE RABBITS, RIGHT?

I... I DO...
BUT THIS ISN'T CUTE ...
FU FU FU!
I GOT CROCODILES FROM BOTH BROTHERS!
KAMI-KAZE PUBLISH-ING'S SUGANO HYAKKEI-SAN...
IS SUGANO IKKEI-KUN'S OLDER BROTHER, RIGHT?
BOTH YOUR NAMES AND FACES ARE THE SAME!
ドン
ズーン

HMM...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THEY ARE THE SAME...
OR RATHER, YOUR NAME'S IKKEI?
YE... YEAH...
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
28
Y-YEAH, SEEING AS THEY'RE BROTHERS...
CAN WE TELL HIM?
...HEY, MISUZU-CHAN,
びく
びく
UM, WE'RE ACTUALLY...
THE AUTHORS HYAKKEI-SAN IS IN CHARGE OF.
I DO THE DRAWINGS, AND AONA DOES THE STORY.

I...
I SEE ...
YEAH, I HAVE LOADS OF ANIKI'S BOOKS.
E... EH! REALLY!? THAT'S A SUR-PRISE!
AH!
...HUH? YOU'RE NOT SUR-PRISED?
EH...! REALLY?
ACTUALLY, I READ QUITE A LOT, TOO.
NOW I KNOW WHY TOKI-TOU-SAN KNOWS SO MUCH ABOUT LIGHT NOVELS.
HA... HAHAHA ...
RIGHT ?
THAT'S NO GOOD!
JUST EARLIER, MURAI-SAN ASKED ME WHO MICCHI WAS.
YEAH, BUT THE GIRLS IN OUR CLASS ARE HOPELESS. FORGET LIGHT NOVELS, THEY HAVEN'T EVEN READ SOME OF THE MOST FAMOUS MANGA FROM THE RECENT PAST.

MI-SUZU~!
I READ SLAM DUNQ!
IT'S A MANGA FROM ABOUT THE TIME WE WERE BORN, RIGHT?

HEY, MICCHI! MORN-ING!
YE... YEAH.
IT'S NOT MICCHI, IT'S IKKEI.
SLAM DUNQ WAS REALLY GOOD. IF YOU'VE GOT ANY OTHER GOOD SUGGES-TIONS, LET ME KNOW!

LEND HER SOMETHING OF YOURS.
OH, TOKITOU-SAN KNOWS A LOT, TOO.
31
I LIKE GUYS LIKE MICCHI WHO HAVE A SLIGHTLY DARK PAST!
GIVE ME SOMETHING SIMILAR!
DO YOU WANT TO HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER?
O... OKAY!

Yeah, yeah, yeah! Let's have lunch together!
It's 3 for 3!! That's perfect!
OH, IT'S YOUR TREAT AGAIN?
WAIT, NO, I...
EHHH...
TOKITOU-SAN AND FUJIMAKI'S RELATIONSHIP NOW SEEMS TO BE BETTER THAN IT WAS BEFORE THEIR ROUGH PATCH,
BUT IT SEEMS I'VE ALSO GOTTEN CLOSER TO THEM...
WHAT? ARE YOU GOING TO SAY NO!?
ANYWAY, ANIKI... PLEASE GET BETTER SOON...!!
"IS VH2" ON SALE IN DECEMBER, AND "RANOBE VOI" ON SALE JANUARY OF NEXT YEAR!
次号につづく! 2月号 12月27日(月)発売!!

Chapter 4

brought to you by:

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